Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-31 (Canceled)

Claims 32-35 (Canceled)

- 36. (Currently amended) An isolated The β -glucuronidase of claim 32, wherein the β -glucuronidase is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 1-1689 of SEQ ID NO: 14 Figure 4I-J or by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-1689 of SEQ ID NO: 14 Figure 4I-J and which encodes a functional β -glucuronidase.
- 37. (Currently amended) An isolated The β -glucuronidase of claim 32, comprising the amino acid sequence[[s]] of SEQ ID NO: 6 Figure 5B, or a variant thereof, wherein the variant has 90% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO: 6 and which wherein the variant has encodes a functional β -glucuronidase activity.

Claims 38-59 (Canceled).

60. (New) An isolated fusion protein, comprising

a β -glucuronidase that is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 1-1689 of SEQ ID NO: 14 or by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-1689 of SEQ ID NO: 14 and which encodes a functional β -glucuronidase, and

a peptide.

- 61. (New) The fusion protein according to claim 60, wherein the peptide is hexa-His or streptavidin.
 - 62 (New) An isolated fusion protein, comprising

a β -glucuronidase comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 or a variant thereof, wherein the variant has 90% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO: 6 and wherein the variant has β -glucuronidase activity, and

a peptide.

Appl. No. 09/936,759 Amdt. dated 27 September 2004
Reply to Office Action of 02 June 2004

63. (New) The fusion protein according to claim 62, wherein the peptide is hexa-His or streptavidin.